

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 13, 15, and 17 are currently pending in the application. New claim 17 has been added. Support for the new claim can be located on page 17, lines 15-24 of the specification.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,177,685 (Davis) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,870,701 (Wachtel) and U.S. Patent No. 5,852,801 (HON).

Davis is directed to an automobile navigation system using real time spoken driving instructions. According to Davis, a vehicle location system uses data from a position sensor installed in the automobile to track the location of the automobile. Discourse generating programs compose driving instructions and other messages which are communicated to the driver using a voice generating apparatus as the driver proceeds along the route. See Davis, column 1, line 65 – column 2, line 3.

Wachtel is directed to a signal processing method and apparatus suitable for processing input signals representative, for example, of words or other elemental units of a natural language.

HON is directed to a method and apparatus for invoking a new word module for unrecognized user input. According to HON, its user interface suggests to a user which unrecognized words may be new words that should be added to the recognition program lexicon.

In the at least one embodiment of the present invention, if there is a data group (with no word) whose characteristic does not match the characteristic "T" extracted by the characteristic extractor unit, the characteristic is registered as a new data group. In such an instance, an appropriate word is attached to a data group in the database with no word by the word provision unit according to certain criteria. Until a word is provided, however, a provisional code is temporarily attached to a data group stored in the database without a word.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present invention are patentable over the references, as none of the references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, "wherein a provisional code is temporarily attached to a data group stored in the database without a word until a word is provided," as recited in claim 1, for example.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Davis does not explicitly disclose the feature of the present invention identified by the above-quoted language. The

Examiner alleged, however, that the feature is "well known in the art," as evidenced by WACHTEL.

Applicants respectfully submit that the feature is not well-known. In contrast to the present invention, WACHTEL discloses search codes. The search codes of WACHTEL, however, are not temporarily attached to a data group stored *without* a word as in the present invention. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, the search codes of WACHTEL are stored *with* a word, not without a word. See WACHTEL, column 10, lines 31-34. See also WACHTEL, TABLE 2.

Moreover, WACHTEL clearly indicates that the codes are removed simply to prevent the codes from being found in a subsequent search. Therefore, the search codes of WACHTEL are not attached to a data group *until a word is provided*.

As HON does not cure the deficiency of Davis and WACHTEL, claims, 1, 2, 13, 15, and 17 (claims 2, 13, 15, and 17 recite language similar to that of claim 1) are patentable over the references. As dependent claim 3 depends from independent claim 2, claim 3 is patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

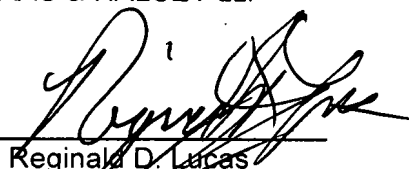
Respectfully submitted,

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